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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge
Commerce City, CO 80022-1748

Visit our website at www.fws.gov/rockymountainarsenal or call 303-289-0930
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Refuge Fishing News

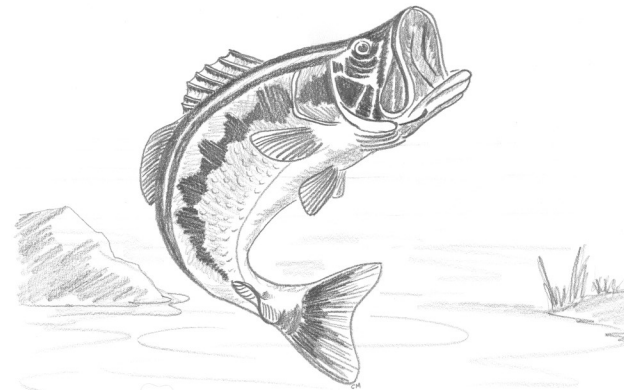
Catch and release fishing begins April 16, 2011. Fishing opportunities will be offered at Lake Mary and Lake Ladora each Tuesday, Saturday, and Sunday from 6:00 am – 6:00 pm through October 16, 2011. Beginning May 21, 2011, the Refuge will have a new entrance. Please refer to the front page for directions. Wading in Lake Ladora is only permitted after Memorial Weekend due to spawning season. To enjoy a day of fishing, a signed permit and Colorado fishing license for anglers 16 years of age and older in addition to a \$3.00/day fee is required. The payment station will still be located at the kiosk by the Prairie Trailhead. Be sure to bring the exact amount since the Refuge is unable to make change. Please check our website or call 303-289-0930 for more information.

Free Fishing Dates:

Saturday, June 4 - National Fishing Week
Saturday, September 24 – National Public Lands Day
Saturday, October 15 – Refuge Roundup

Fishing Frenzy

Saturday, April 9, 8:00 am-12:00 pm



Calling all youth anglers! Get your poles ready and join us for a fishing derby just for you. Prizes will be awarded in different fishing categories. Visit skill booths to learn about casting, knot tying, fish ethics, water safety, and fish identification.

For reservations, call 303-289-3760

Sponsored by: Commerce City Parks and Recreation, Bass Pro Shops, Reunion Recreation Center, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

WILD NEWS

Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge

February–May 2011

New Visitor Center Grand Opening Celebration at Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proudly announces the opening of its new “green” Visitor Center! The public is cordially invited to celebrate the grand opening, scheduled for Saturday, May 21, 2010, from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. The celebration continues through Saturday, May 28, 2010 with additional special activities and programs for the entire family.

The 12,500 square-foot Visitor Center is designed with modern technology while maximizing function and energy saving needs. Solar arrays, ground source heat pumps, cork flooring, beetle-kill wood, recycled asphalt, and many other green features gave the facility its LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification. Upon entering the lobby, visitors are greeted with soaring wooden-beamed ceilings leading to a large expanse of glass that offers spectacular views of the shortgrass prairie. A full mounted bison bull, also located in the lobby, will be a great stop for photographs. All new interactive exhibitry will take visitors on a journey from past to present, complete with soundscapes, mounted wildlife, and cultural artifacts. Spacious outdoor patios present visitors with an opportunity to sit, relax, and take in the sights and sounds of nature and provide a great gathering area for larger groups.



A colorful discovery room full of wildlife activities and exploration will give youngsters a whole new perspective on learning about nature, and the addition of an auditorium opens the door for more guest lectures, full-length feature films, special performances, and trainings. Before your visit ends, be sure to check out “Nature’s Nest”, a bookstore and gift shop operated by Friends of the Front Range Wildlife Refuges, brimming with a large variety of merchandise for all ages and sure to complete your “wild” adventure. See you there!

New Refuge Entrance Beginning May 21, 2011

Directions to the new Refuge entrance and Visitor Center:

Take I-70 to Quebec St. Go north on Quebec St. to Prairie Parkway. Turn right and take Prairie Parkway to Gateway Road. Turn left onto Gateway Road. The new Visitor Center is just inside the Refuge entrance at the crest of the hill. The address is 6570 Gateway Road.

NATURE PROGRAM SCHEDULE

February-May 2011

Reservations are required for these FREE popular programs. Call 303-289-0930. Space is limited. Please dress for the weather. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Assistance dogs are welcome. Refuge staff reserves the right to cancel or reschedule programs due to unforeseen circumstances.

The Refuge is closed on all federal holidays and Mondays. Beginning May 21, 2011, the Refuge entrance will change. Please refer to lower section of front page.

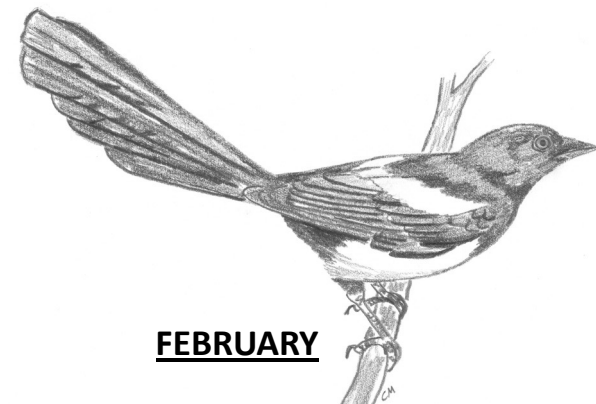
Refuge Hours:

February 1 - March 31 (winter hours):
Tuesdays - Sundays 7:00 am - 5:00 pm

April 1 - May 31 (summer hours):
Tuesdays - Sundays 6:00 am - 6:00 pm

Visitor Center Hours:

Tuesdays - Sundays 9:00 am - 4:00 pm



FEBRUARY

Birding Basics

Thursday, February 10, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Flight patterns, calls, and wing markings – those are a few techniques used to identify birds. This program will cover all the basics needed to begin the popular hobby of birding! Binoculars recommended.

Seasonal Photo Tour

Saturday, February 12, 2:30 - 5:30 pm
As the seasons change, so does the Refuge landscape and the wildlife found there. Capture those wondrous moments through the lens of your camera.

Eyes on Eagles

Sunday, February 13, 3:00 - 5:00 pm
People are not the only ones who travel to warmer destinations when winter arrives. Learn about the bald eagle, their migration, and visit their winter residence at the Refuge.

Sky Tigers

Saturday, February 19, 3:00 - 5:00 pm
Even skunks aren't safe from this voracious predator! Great horned owls will attack prey 2 to 3 times heavier than themselves. Explore this owl's softer side as it prepares for baby sky tigers. Binoculars recommended.

Seasonal Photo Tour

Saturday, February 26, 3:00 - 6:00 pm
See February 12 description.

MARCH

Zoom in on Birds

Thursday, March 3, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Bird enthusiasts rejoice! Refuge photography has gone to the birds! Bring your camera and zoom lens as we focus in on some of our seasonal feathered friends and how to identify them.

Seasonal Photo Tour

Saturday, March 12, 3:00 - 6:00 pm
See February 12 description.

Bison Anniversary Tour

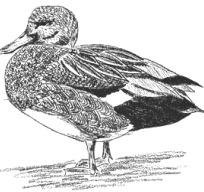
Thursday, March 17, 9:00 - 11:00 am
An anniversary celebration! Four years ago on this date, 16 American bison were returned to the Refuge and has now grown to a herd of 50. Join us on a special bison tour followed with refreshments.

Seasonal Photo Tour

Sunday, March 20, 7:00 - 10:00 am
See February 12 description.

Waterfowl ID

Saturday, March 26, 8:00 - 10:00 am
Explore the habitats of Refuge waterfowl and learn how to identify various species with the help of a local birder. Binoculars recommended.



APRIL

Friends of a Feather

Sunday, April 3, 8:00 - 11:00 am
Take a journey with a Refuge naturalist through prairie, woodlands, and along lakes in search of our feathered friends. Don't forget to bring along binoculars and cameras.

Zoom in on Birds

Saturday, April 16, 7:00 - 10:00 am
See March 3 description.

Seasonal Photo Tour

Saturday, April 23, 6:00 - 9:00 am
As the seasons change, so does the Refuge landscape and the wildlife found there. Capture those wondrous moments through the lens of your camera.

Family Fishing Night

Saturday, April 30, 4:00 - 7:00 pm
Grab your fishing pole and head to the Refuge for some free fishing fun! Experienced anglers will be on hand to help and poles will be available for loan.

MAY

Seasonal Photo Tour

Sunday, May 15, 6:00 am - 9:00 am
See February 12 description.

New Visitor Center

Grand Opening Celebration
Saturday, May 21 to May 28, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Join in celebrating the opening of your new Visitor Center. Enjoy special activities and programs for the whole family. Please refer to the front page for more information.

Seasonal Photo Tour

Saturday, May 28, 5:00 - 8:00 pm
See February 12 description.

WILD RIDES

Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays
9:30 - 11:30 am

Experience the sights and sounds of the Refuge on this two-hour guided wildlife viewing tour.

Reservations required.

Call 303-289-0930 to reserve your spot today!



TUESDAY TOTS

10:00 - 11:00 am

This one-hour program is for the young naturalist 2 to 5 years old. Parent or guardian must accompany all children. Reservations required.

Grow As We Go

February 1 & 22
Just like us, animals change as they grow up. Explore the amazing life cycles of Refuge wildlife from egg to bird, tadpole to frog, and caterpillar to butterfly.

Hiding in Plain Sight

March 1 & 29
Animals play hide-and-seek using their body colors and textures. Learn how a fawn's spots help it hide, why caterpillars are green, and where the best hiding spots really are!

Just Ducky

April 5 & 26
Celebrate the spring arrival of ducks with your loudest quacks and silliest waddles. Find out why they have feathers, how they use their special feet and how they build their nests.